

The Coastal Resiliency Action Committee
MEETING MINUTES - TUESDAY, APRIL 13, 2021, 4:00 P.M.

In accordance with the Governor's Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G. L. c. 30A, § 20, relating to the 2020 novel Coronavirus outbreak emergency, **the April 13, 2021 public meeting of the Coastal Resiliency Action Committee shall be physically closed to the public to avoid group congregation.**

Alternative public access to this meeting shall be provided in the following manner:

1. The meeting will be televised via Falmouth Community Television.
2. Real-time public comment can be addressed to the Coastal Resiliency Action Committee utilizing the Zoom virtual meeting software for remote access. This application will allow users to view the meeting and send a comment or question to the Chair via the Chat function. Submitted text comments will be read into the record at the appropriate points in the meeting.
 - a. Zoom Login instructions:
 - i. Instructions and the meeting link for this specific meeting can be found at the following web address: <http://www.falmouthma.gov/CoastalResiliency>
 - ii. Please plan on 10-15 minutes of preparation time to log in though it may be less if you have previously used Zoom on the device you will use to access this meeting.
3. Additionally public comments may be sent in advance of the meeting to concom@falmouthma.gov at **least 5 hours prior** to the beginning of the meeting. Documents and audio or video files may also be submitted via email. Submitted email comments and documents will be made a part of the meeting record and may be read into the record, summarized or displayed during the meeting at the discretion of the chair.

Present: Charles McCaffrey, Chair
Melissa Freitag, Vice-Chair
Jamie Mathews
Paul Dreyer
Andrew Ashton
Ed Schmitt, Alternate

Also present: Mackenzie Ryan, Enterprise, Donna Currie, Great Bay, John (interested observer)

Mr. McCaffrey opened the meeting at 4:08 p.m.

Review submittal from Woods Hole Group.

Mr. McCaffrey: I'd like to start with the review first. We all have an outline of the report with edits from Elise Leduc (Woods Hole Group). Let's go through it and see where we stand. I agree with the changes she made and want her to do more. Or do we have to do more? I think

we should defer writing the introduction until we are closer to the end. I'd like to emphasize the word "adaptations" as much as possible as opposed to the word "hazard". There should be less emphasis on the term hazard and more on adaptations and resiliency. Maybe we should make general comments before we go through the report.

Ms. Freitag: I appreciate the verbiage for the part we asked them to write. Elise got a different copy. It's not my draft it's everyone's very early draft.

Ms. Lincoln: I let her know that it was very early. I'll have her add in the sections that she didn't have from the Table of Contents.

Ms. Freitag: I can add them – it's just 3 lines.

Ms. Lincoln: Elise wants it to be whatever the Committee wants it to be. She will try to get something to you on the Friday before the next meeting. We can forward individual parts also.

Ms. Freitag: How much of the budget have we already used?

Ms. Lincoln: I will find out.

Ms. Freitag: Four pages were added. How much of the \$9,000.00 has she used?

Mr. McCaffrey: We must make sure that we have money to use throughout the process.

Ms. Freitag: There are not several more sections.

Mr. McCaffrey: Yes there are.

Ms. Lincoln: We should start with the email she sent. She is clear that this is the Committee's report.

Mr. McCaffrey: Did she edit the introduction? Where does her work begin?

Ms. Lincoln: We should answer the questions she proposed.

Ms. Freitag: Federal Studies? Neighborhood assessment output? Should she summarize them?

Ms. Lincoln: What is easier for the Committee?

Mr. McCaffrey: When we write something we identify what it is.

Ms. Freitag: On page 32 (29) – should the neighborhood assessment be there?

Mr. McCaffrey: It doesn't matter.

Ms. Freitag: A-5 is the Vulnerability Assessment.

Ms. Lincoln: Send me the information and I'll forward it to Elise. Send the stuff with the proper citation and I'll send it forward.

Continue to discuss final report.

Ms. Freitag: The Federal studies should be in the appendices.

Mr. McCaffrey: I'm not inclined to include any more studies – just the USGS Flood study - the groundwater study. They should not be in the appendices.

Mr. Ashton: We can reference it.

Mr. McCaffrey: In the Town report.

Mr. Ashton: We can make links to the Town report also.

Mr. McCaffrey: Let's look at that.

Ms. Lincoln: Maybe we should get rid of the Federal studies.

Ms. Freitag: Yes.

Ms. Lincoln: Should zoning bylaws be in there?

Mr. McCaffrey: I talked about the Select Board Use Permit. We can put a link in the footnote for it.

Ms. Lincoln: We should remove all of appendix B. Is your printer not working?

Mr. McCaffrey: Yes.

Ms. Lincoln: I can print a copy for you. Can you leave it in a drop box?

Mr. McCaffrey: Yes.

Ms. Lincoln: There is no need for the zoning bylaws. Delete that.

Ms. Freitag: Done.

Mr. McCaffrey: We'll know better what to put in the appendix later.

Ms. Lincoln: We can do the editing and format at the end.

Mr. Mathews: On the appendices referencing reports, etc. – we're not going to include a body of them?

Ms. Freitag: A list of referenced bylaws might be useful. They can be referenced in a footnote.

Ms. Lincoln: I have a response from Elise re money spent - 6 hours for \$840. It was the hardest part. She will incorporate remarks from the Committee and send updates on the money in the future.

Ms. Lincoln: Let's look at Resources and Uses at Risk on page 7.

Ms. Freitag: If GIS can't figure it out before the next meeting it's worth having them figure it out.

Mr. McCaffrey: The Table didn't include the number of properties at risk for high tide – they used percentages. It's a separate table. A comment to Elise - use the actual number of properties, not the percentages.

Ms. Freitag: They should leave the percentages and have the numbers also.

Mr. McCaffrey: Unless you can explain the arbitrary line, there should not be percentages.

Mr. Ashton: Percentages are not meaningful.

Mr. McCaffrey: They are giving them information that is not necessary. That's the message. Telling them that Surf Drive will have 150 properties inundated at high tide and New Silver Beach will have 180 properties inundated at high tide – that conveys useful information. Not 20% of 800+. It's the main message we want to get across.

Ms. Freitag: We should put the actual number of structures at risk.

Mr. McCaffrey: At that stage she asked about graphics and maps. Sea level rise belongs in the next section.

Ms. Lincoln: Do you want them to work on Resources and At Risk, etc?

Mr. McCaffrey: Yes we need to know where we have gaps. There are small comments to put together re structures at risk for inundation at high tide. Pick the dramatic section in danger and put it on a map that zero's in on the development across from the bathhouse or New Silver Beach. Both have more than 100 homes to be affected. People can visualize this. Silver Beach is very dramatic.

Ms. Lincoln: You're biased on that area.

Mr. McCaffrey: It does have the most properties to be inundated by high tide. The area is probably only a foot or two above sea level. It was all wetlands originally.

Mr. Schmitt: I go to New Silver Beach every week. There are large numbers of houses that have been elevated and are above flooding.

Mr. McCaffrey: No, they were raised when built. Only a handful has been elevated according to the latest standards. The ground will be flooded.

Mr. Ashton: Where is the information from?

Mr. McCaffrey: They only did properties with structures.

Ms. Lincoln: I'll find out.

Mr. McCaffrey: They pinpointed parcels with structures.

Mr. Dreyer: It makes more sense to have the number of structures, not the percentages.

Ms. Lincoln read a note from Elise asking if we want WHG to do that section.
Mr. McCaffrey: Yes.
Mr. Ashton: Which information covers the number of structures?
Mr. McCaffrey: It's a separate table. 2.2(2) – 13 communities at risk or the total of houses affected.
Ms. Freitag: Table 1.
Mr. McCaffrey: Somewhere there is a footnote listing 13 sections.
Ms. Freitag: Should we include communities? Not necessarily.
Mr. McCaffrey: I'm looking for a summary table.
Ms. Freitag: It's there.
Ms. Lincoln: We have to give WHG some guidance.
Ms. Freitag: The Table has percentages – percentage of inundation risk and not properties. It's not cumulative. It's a placeholder in our original draft.
Mr. McCaffrey: In the Vulnerability Assessment – what is the risk of flooding to private developments? It didn't say the number of structures permanently inundated at high tide. One is for specific storms and one is for sea level rise.
Mr. Ashton: Sea level rise should be together with storms.
Mr. McCaffrey: It had the effect of sea level rise from flooding but not high tide.
Mr. Ashton: The two are not unrelated.
Mr. McCaffrey: We need a Table of permanent structures inundated in high tide. We need both.
Mr. Ashton: Can that be added to a Table?
Ms. Lincoln: It could be added to Table 1.
Mr. Ashton: We could put the numbers in Figure 1 or make another figure with just that information.
Mr. McCaffrey: We need positive numbers. Have them include tables for permanent inundation.
Ms. Lincoln: What do we do with the table?
Mr. Ashton: It's used for making a figure.
Mr. McCaffrey: Some numbers can be highlighted.
Ms. Freitag: Please update the numbers of permanent inundation at high tide.
Mr. Ashton will update the numbers.
Mr. Schmitt: What is the definition of inundated?
Mr. McCaffrey: It's the groundwater.
Mr. Ashton: WHG doesn't have information for properties.
Mr. McCaffrey: When inundated a structure is not habitable in a tidal zone.
Ms. Lincoln: There is a house in Wild Harbor where the basement floods in high tide.
Mr. McCaffrey: It's not a situation we recommend be repeated.
Ms. Freitag: Andrew will adjust.
Mr. Ashton: Can we discuss the CZM grants?
Mr. McCaffrey: We will.

Committee will consider any matters not reasonably anticipated by the Chair.

Discuss CZM Grants

Ms. Lincoln: Amy Lowell is applying for a CZM grant for a feasibility study for the re-location of the Trunk River sewer.

Mr. McCaffrey: We can endorse this grant application for Amy. That's a priority of ours. We supported her MVP grant application that wasn't funded. We can help her adjust this to the CZM grant. We should support this program. The federal government will have infrastructure funds for adapting to sea level rise (50 billion dollars). We should be in a good position to tap into the funds.

Ms. Lincoln: We have a request from Jim and Donna Currie asking that we consider their project. You should all look at the email.

Ms. Freitag: We can consider it but it's not on the agenda.

Mr. McCaffrey: I'd like the Committee's thoughts on supporting the sewer feasibility study.

Mr. Ashton: It's one of our top priorities.

Ms. Freitag: It's number 2 on the priority list.

Ms. Lincoln: There is a failure at the culvert/dam on Red Brook Road at the Mashpee/Falmouth line. The wetland has drained. This could be a collaboration between the Mashpee and Falmouth DPW. Steve Hurley is filing a joint request to repair the culvert and restore the wetland. Also the Harbormaster (Gregg Fraser) has been speaking with Applied Coastal about what's going on at the Menauhant Yacht Club because of the Washburn Island accretion. The Town should start looking at that and Gregg is filing a grant for it.

Ms. Freitag: The inter-municipal agreement for a project to fix the damaged culvert is interesting. Sea level rise and storm problems will be better if we start opening up a dialogue with other Towns.

Mr. Ashton: Is the area of the broken culvert connected by a wetland?

Ms. Lincoln: Yes. I believe it is a cranberry bog.

Ms. Freitag: Did the dam break?

Ms. Lincoln: Yes.

Mr. Ashton: Is it fresh water?

Ms. Freitag: Yes.

Mr. Ashton: Re the Menauhant Yacht Club – is there a navigation problem there? Is that why Gregg is interested?

Ms. Lincoln: Yes. They are dredging the tip of Washburn Island. He has a group of dredging projects. \$50,000 is earmarked for a study of this group. They had State funding promised to them and had to raise more money. It fell apart and the study was never done. They have done something similar in 3 areas in Osterville. Gregg is talking to Applied Coastal because of the accretion from Washburn Island into the Menauhant area.

Ms. Lincoln: There is intense pressure from the Eel River area cutting through by the Menauhant Yacht Club.

Ms. Freitag: I support this project. It needs to be re-routed.

Ms. Lincoln: With all the conversations I've had – no one has asked if we would support it.

Mr. McCaffrey: We've emphasized that if you interfere with a natural process, you have to mitigate for it.

Ms. Lincoln: I will reach out to Amy Lowell and see which grant she's looking at and will let you know. We know what the issue was with the MVP grant. It had to do with the construction of the emergency bypass. She can take that part out and self fund it through the Town. She can do some re-packaging and go back with it.

Ms. Freitag: Do we want to do another Surf Drive Study in another area?

Mr. McCaffrey: The MVP grants will be coming out soon. We don't want to compete with Amy.

Ms. Lincoln: I'll see which one she's going for. What about the culvert project?

Ms. Freitag: We got the Vulnerability Assessment through MVP. We should reach out to the Red Brook people and see what they are planning to do.

Mr. McCaffrey: We'll have to see if it applies to resiliency.

Mr. Ashton: I think we should consider actions from the Surf Drive Study, i.e. beach restoration. We could focus on another part of Town.

Mr. McCaffrey: The West Falmouth sediment study is an important priority.

Ms. Freitag: We don't know if we will continue to exist after June.

Mr. McCaffrey: Some of this may happen before June.

Ms. Lincoln: I will check with the Red Brook people.

Mr. McCaffrey: There are two funding systems and three possibilities for us – replicating the Surf Drive Study, initializing the sediment study and the sewer main.

Ms. Freitag: There are three levels of revenue requirements.

Mr. McCaffrey: Amy's project is less than \$100,000.

Ms. Lincoln: It has to be one of our top priorities but it will take years. It's critical infrastructure for the Town. I've seen what it takes when the main breeches. It needs to be re-located.

Ms. Lincoln asked Melissa to send the draft to her and she will send it on to Elise. (The first graphic re inundation and a map of New Silver Beach)

Ms. Freitag: We talked about inserting synopses for three studies we've done. Where did we insert those in the outline? There are two sentences for each one and we need a little more detail. We should give recommendations re MVP, Vulnerability Assessment and the Surf Drive Study.

Mr. McCaffrey: We can support all recommendations except for a few.

Ms. Freitag: We can't get it into the Table of Comments.

Mr. Ashton: We should address the Curries' comment.

Ms. Lincoln: DPW told them to come to us. The project is all on Town property and I can give them some direction. It is a reoccurring cost proposal. They need to seek approval from the DPW and the Select Board. I will set up a Zoom call with them. We can't support the project without the directive of the DPW. I tried to explain that we're focusing on implementing projects identified in past studies. There are a lot of projects competing for money.

Mr. Ashton: The project is on Town property that will help private property.

VOTE MINUTES

3/30/2021

Mr. Mathews: Move to adopt the minutes as written.

Mr. Ashton: Second.

Mr. McCaffrey: Freitag, aye; Dreyer, aye; McCaffrey, aye; Mathews, aye. Ashton abstained.
The motion is passed.

Ms. Freitag: Move to adjourn.

Mr. Mathews: Second.

Mr. McCaffrey: Freitag, aye; Dreyer, aye; McCaffrey, aye; Mathews, aye. Ashton, aye.
Unanimous, so moved.

The meeting adjourned at 5:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Cronin, Recording Secretary

By Order of: Charles McCaffrey, Chair
Coastal Resiliency Action Committee